

Using Digital Storytelling in the Science Classroom

Cari Jo Kiffmeyer
Wayzata Public Schools
K-12 Science Specialist
carijo.kiffmeyer@wayzata.k12.mn.us
Ph: 763-745-6117

Tired of reading lab reports or assigning PowerPoint presentations to your students? Come and learn how you can take these to a new level with digital storytelling using Windows Movie Maker, Photo Story, PowerPoint and/or SMART Recorder. We'll also learn how to create a "virtual" you that will free you up from planning for a substitute.

Samples of Assignments I have used with my students:

Create a Video Lab Report Mixtures Lab

Purpose: Create a slide show which presents your data and findings from the Mixtures lab.

Content Requirements:

Title Slide

State your Initial Predictions – what you thought each unknown would be classified as before you began the experiment

State your results, support your results using lab data – this can be done with subtitles or with the audio. For each of the unknowns you must give at least 2 reasons why you picked the classification for that unknown.

Slide Show requirements

Title slide

Picture of each of the solutions

At least one "video transition"

At least one "video effect"

Sub-titles on each of the photos

Recording of audio

Credits slide at the end

Create a Video Lab Report for Types of Reactions

Purpose: Create a lab report for EACH reaction. Work as you go, you will actually create just 1 overall video report but do it in parts as you carry out the experiments.

Content Requirements

For each reaction:

- Use some part of the video clip already created to show at least the product.
- Give the equation in text form in the presentation.
- State verbally what you did – i.e. what you mixed together
- State – verbally – the evidence for a chemical change
- State – verbally – the type of reaction observed

Create a commercial about an alternative fuel or hybrid vehicle

Task: Create a 2-3 minute commercial using powerpoint and smart recorder, aimed at selling the 2008 Honda Civic GX-NGV model. This vehicle runs on Compressed Natural Gas. Your primary goal is to educate potential customers about the benefits of switching to this new alternative fuel.

There are a lot of fears that customers have that should be considered when making the commercial:

How does the vehicle work?

How safe is it?

Where do I refuel?

What is the Environmental Impact?

How much does it cost to refuel?

Where is the vehicle available?

What is the MPG rating?

Also include any other information that may increase interest.

Are there any tax incentives?

Helpful website to get you started:

<http://automobiles.honda.com/civic-gx/>

Create a presentation about a topic in nuclear chemistry

Group 1 – Chernobyl

Group 6 – Radon

Group 2 - Pro nuclear power

Group 7 – Nuclear Medicine

Group 3 – Con nuclear power

Group 8 – Radium Girls

Group 4 – Yucca Mountain

Group 9 – Atomic Bomb

Group 5 – Food Irradiation

Group 10 – Hydrogen Bomb

Create a **4-6 minute** presentation on your assigned topic using Photo Story.

Requirements of the Presentation

- 8 slide minimum
- 1 diagram, chart or graphic

Students will have to answer the following questions during your presentation – make sure that you address each one in a clear and concise manner so that they can take down the information that you are providing. Information from these presentations will be on the exam!

Assessment

Your presentation will be graded on the following items:

- Group participation – did everyone participate? Did one person do all the work? (5 pts)
- Use of class time (5 pts)
- Presentation preparation (5 pts)
- Professionalism – (5 pts)
- Works cited page & slide preview – 5 pts – you must use a minimum of 3 sources and you must provide a one page copy from every internet site used. The slides need to be printed on a 6 or 9 slide “handout” page PRIOR to the presentation.
- Presentation – 35 pts
 - Organization (3 pts)
 - #of slides (2 pts)
 - Graphic – did you explain it? Was it explained accurately and in enough detail. (5 pts)
 - Slide Display – too much info, too little (5 pts)
 - Color Scheme – easy to read, hard to read, background, font and color choices (3 pts)
 - Content Presented – accurate, well explained, did you understand it and answer questions reasonably, did you confuse your audience (10 pts)
 - Transitions between slides – linking the presentation one slide to the next (5 pts)
 - Length of the presentation (2 pts)

	Photo Story	Windows Movie Maker	SMART Recorder
Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easy to use program • Free download for Windows users • Can rotate and edit images • Use music AND recorded audio • Record audio once slide at a time • Add text to image slide 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard program on PC's • Can import video and images • Can take pictures from videos • One audio track – music or narration <p>*Can get around this but requires additional steps and has some limitations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add text to image slide • Add text slide 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard software with SMART notebook • DO NOT need a SMART board to use this software
Drawbacks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can only import pictures/images – not video • Cannot add text ONLY slides – have to create them in Power Pointm, save them as .jpg and import them 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More difficult to use them PhotoStory • Memory issues – does not run wel on lap tops • CANNOT rotate images once imported • Have to assure location of all images and video 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cannot edit recording • Requires additional step to turn recording into a DVD • No volume control • Some lag time in longer files
Ideas for Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video Lab Report – present results • Informational Reports – i.e. on scientists or history of a scientific discovery • Commericals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video Lab Report – present results • Public Service Announcements /Commericals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a virtual you • Classroom presentations can become videos